



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 420

LCO No. 2681



Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:
(PD)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO IDENTIFY
RESIDENTS WITH UNMET NEEDS BASED ON UNPAID WATER
UTILITY BILLS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) "Water company" has the same
2 meaning as provided in section 25-32a of the general statutes.
- 3 (b) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall
4 establish a pilot program, to be implemented in municipalities with
5 populations greater than one hundred thousand for a two-year period
6 beginning January 1, 2017, for the purpose of identifying residential
7 water utility customers whose service has been terminated by a water
8 company at least once in the previous twenty-four months due to a late
9 payment or unpaid bill and whose water utility accounts reflect
10 unpaid balances of one hundred fifty dollars or more. Customers
11 identified pursuant to this subsection shall be deemed residents with
12 unmet needs.
- 13 (c) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in

14 consultation with municipalities, water companies and other interested
 15 parties, shall consider the creation and implementation of a program
 16 or programs to assess the unmet needs of such residents and provide
 17 assistance that will enable such residents to meet their needs. Such
 18 program or programs may (1) allow residents with unmet needs to
 19 make small down payments on unpaid balances or extend payment
 20 deadlines in order to avoid the termination of service, (2) provide
 21 financial counseling to residents with unmet needs, or (3) provide
 22 residents with unmet needs with information on public assistance
 23 programs for which such residents may be eligible. Such program or
 24 programs may utilize private funding sources.

25 (d) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in
 26 consultation with municipalities and water companies, shall submit a
 27 report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the
 28 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
 29 of matters relating to local governments and public health, on their
 30 findings pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and
 31 recommendations pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To authorize the Office of Policy and Management to establish a pilot program to identify residents with unmet needs based on unpaid water utility bills for the purpose of implementing programs to assist such residents in meeting their needs.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]